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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Izumi TSUKAMOTO et al.

Application No.: 10/648,479

Filed: August 27, 2003

For: SUBSTRATE ATTRACTING AND HOLDING  
SYSTEM FOR USE IN EXPOSURE  
APPARATUS

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: Examiner: P. Kim  
)  
: Group Art Unit: 2851  
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: Confirmation No.: 5743  
)  
: Allowed: February 18, 2004  
)  
: May 10, 2004  
)

**Mail Stop Issue Fee**

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

COMMENT ON EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

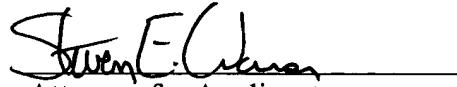
Sir:

Applicants have received a Notice of Allowance and a Notice of Allowability, which were mailed by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on February 18, 2004, in the above-identified application. Attached to the Notice of Allowability is an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance of this application. Regarding claim 46, the Examiner notes that "none of the prior art of record teaches or discloses an apparatus for holding a substrate comprising protrusions on a table wherein the apparatus is arranged such that he (sic-the) protrusions are disposed with the layout of the substrate." Likewise, the Examiner notes that, regarding claim 51, "none of the prior art of record teaches or discloses an apparatus comprising a conveyance

unit for conveying the chuck on the stage wherein the chuck is selected on the basis of the substrate layout." To be exact, however, claims 46 and 51 do not, in fact, refer to either "the layout of the substrate" or "the substrate layout." Rather, these claims refer to "a pattern." For example, claim 46 recites that the apparatus is arranged such that the protrusions are disposed in accordance with a pattern formed on or to be formed on the substrate, whereas claim 51 recites that the chuck conveyed by the conveyance unit is selected on the basis of information related to protrusions, being provided on the chuck, for supporting the substrate, and information related to a pattern formed on or to be formed on the substrate.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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